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EXAMINER

GUZMAN, APRIL S

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Continuation Sheet (PTOL-303)

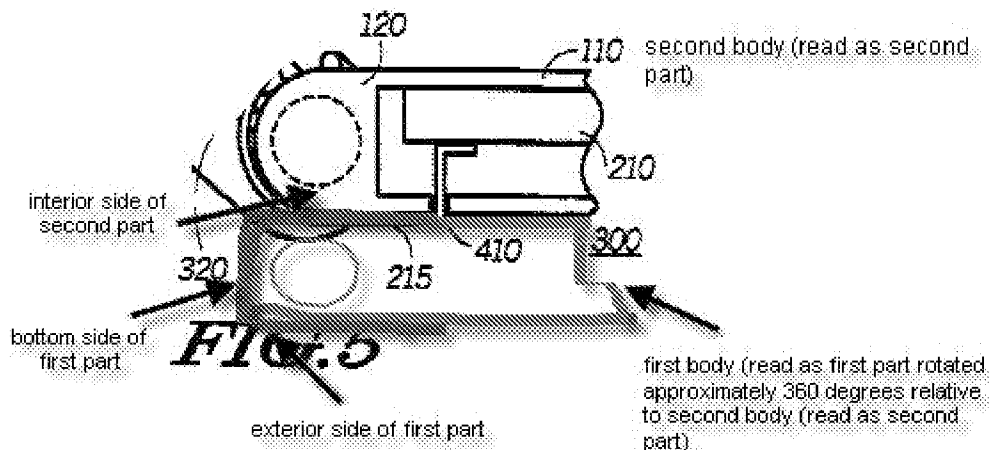
The request for reconsideration has been considered but does not place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant argues that nothing in Ueyama and Goldenberg would lead one of skill in the art to utilize first and second sets of flexible electrical conductors that are *oppositely attached relative to one another*, with the first set of conductors connected to the first part exterior and second part interior, and with the second set of conductors oppositely connected to the first part interior and second part exterior. The Applicant's emphasis on the *oppositely attached relative to one another* has not been made explicit in independent claim 1 and 17 and therefore the limitations of the claims have been read in its broadest reasonable interpretation.

As stated in the Examiner's prior rejection mailed 04/14/08, Goldenberg teach a data communication receiver 100 (read as portable electronic device) having a hinged mechanism (read as at least one hinge) whereby a first body portion 105 (read as first part) may be rotated with respect to a second body portion 110 (read as second part) (column 2 lines 63-68). A receiver board 205, on which receiver circuitry is mounted, is disposed within a cavity formed in the first body portion 105 (read as the first part comprising electrical circuits) and a decoder board 210, disposed within a cavity formed in the second body portion 110 (read as the second part comprising electrical circuits) (column 3 lines 7-22). The flexible circuit 215 (read as set of flexible electrical conductors) electrically couples the receiver board 205 to the decoder board 210 (column 4 lines 27-44).

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The Examiner has interpreted the limitation of independent claim 1, "a first set of flexible electrical conductors connected to the first part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and connected to the second part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof" with reference to Figure 5 of Goldberg simulated and edited by the Examiner as shown below wherein the position of the first part is shown as a result of the first part being rotated approximately 360 degrees relative to the second part. The red line depicts the placement of the first set of flexible electrical conductors.

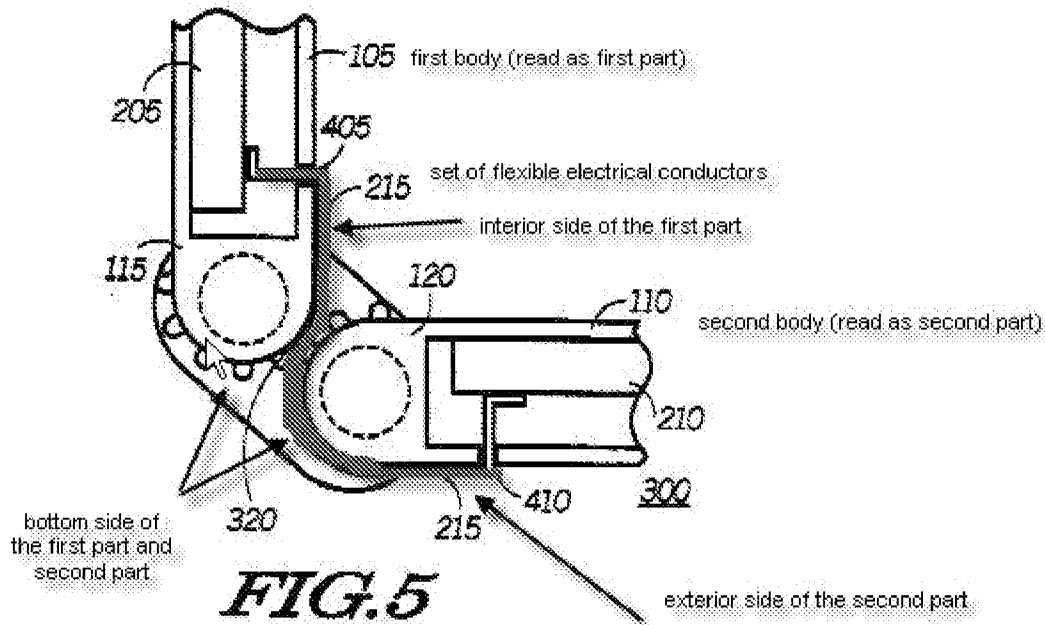
flexible circuit 215, highlighted bold below, is shown as a result of the position of the first part rotated approximately 360 degrees relative to the second part



The Examiner has interpreted the limitation of independent claim 1, "a second set of flexible electrical conductors connected to the second part at the exterior side adjacent the bottom side thereof and connected to the first part at the interior side adjacent the bottom side thereof" with reference to Figure 5 of Goldenberg simulated and edited by the Examiner as

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shown below wherein the first part and second part is rotatable approximately 360 degrees relative to the each other wherein the red line depicts the second set of flexible electrical conductors.



The Examiner has read the limitation of an exterior side, an interior side, and top and bottom sides of the first part and second part in its broadest reasonable interpretation.

Ueyama teach a flexible printed circuit board has first and second connection portion 18 and 19 where contact portions 11a and 11b of conductor patterns 11 are exposed. The conductor patterns 11 include a first and a second pattern 111 and 112 (read as first set and second set of flexible electrical conductors respectively) for signal transmission and a third pattern 113 for grounding. The Examiner relies on Ueyama specifically for the teaching of first set and second set of flexible electrical conductors for the purpose of various signal transmission. See *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960) wherein the court held that mere duplication

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of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to incorporate a duplicate set of flexible electrical conductors as taught by Ueyama into the teachings of Goldenberg for the purpose of various signal transmissions. Furthermore, In re Kuhle, 526 F.2d 553, 188 USPQ 7 (CCPA 1975) (the particular placement of a contact in a conductivity measuring device was held to be an obvious matter of design choice).

Applicant also argues that Goldenberg describes that its geared portions are essential components of its hinge devices and that Goldenberg describes intermeshing of first and second geared portions of the respective first and second parts of the electronic device as being essential to achieve stable rotation of one part relative to the other part. In claim 10 of the present application, the limitation recites "wherein one of the parts comprises gears connected to its bottom side and the other of the parts is provided with gaps with which the gears mesh. It has been shown that this limitation is taught by Goldenberg (Figures 1-2, 4-6, column 2 lines 63-67, column 3 lines 1-7, column 3 lines 34-40, column 4 lines 1-16, and column 4 lines 45-51). If the Applicant intends to differentiate between the gear portions of Goldenberg and the gears and gears mesh of the present application, then such differences should be made explicit in the claims. As a result, the argued features are written such that they read upon the cited references; therefore, the previous rejection still applies.

/April S. Guzman/
Examiner, Art Unit 2618

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